

**Participant Biographies Bristol Bay Sportsmen's Summit  
Washington, DC April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 2012**

**Whit Fosburgh:** President & CEO, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Washington, DC

Prior to working at the TRCP, Fosburgh spent 15 years at Trout Unlimited, playing a critical role in that organization's evolution into a conservation powerhouse. Additionally, Fosburgh served as fisheries' director for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; chief environment and energy staff person for Sen. Tom Daschle; and was a wildlife specialist for the National Audubon Society. Fosburgh grew up hunting and fishing in upstate New York and was a member of team USA at the 1997 World Fly Fishing Championships. He brings a wealth of experience in conservation policy, fundraising and program development, as well as a passion for the outdoors

**Doug Grann:** President & CEO of Wildlife Forever  
Brooklyn Center, MN

Douglas Grann is the President & CEO of Wildlife Forever, the non-profit conservation arm of the North American Hunting Club and the North American Fishing Club, located in Minneapolis. The collective membership of these three organizations represents 1.3 million hunters and anglers. Wildlife Forever is dedicated to conserving America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and management of fish and wildlife. Since his first trip in 1993, Doug has visited Alaska 21 times.

**Gordon Robertson:** Vice President of the American Sportfishing Association  
Alexandria, VA

Gordon Robertson's natural resources career spans more than 30 years, much of it in natural resource policy, state and federal legislation, as well as managing fish and wildlife programs. He is currently Vice President of the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) in Alexandria, Virginia. The ASA represents the sport fishing industry's interests, with over 900 manufacturing, wholesale, distributor, and retail members. An avid hunter and angler, Mr. Robertson is a member of the American Fisheries Society, Wildlife Society and the Society of American Foresters, as well as numerous natural resource and wildlife conservation organizations. He has chaired and served on numerous national committees and task forces that have helped shape issues ranging from wilderness management to assuring that dollars paid by manufacturers and hunters and anglers remain dedicated to the purpose of sound fish and wildlife programs. Throughout his career, he has been involved in key federal and state legislative and policy decisions for the benefit of anglers and hunters and the resources they value.

**Len Vallender:** Conservation Committee Chair for Campfire Club of America  
Chappaqua, NY

Len Vallender is a businessman and owner of FenBar Precision Machinists, Inc. (43 years), Abrasive Cutting Corp., and Little Skeeters LLC. Len has been actively involved with sportsman conservation issues for decades. He has been a member of Camp Fire Club of America for 37 years, serving as the organization's president from 1991 – 1993, and as chairman of its conservation committee for 19 years. He has been a member of Boone & Crockett Club since 2004; has been awarded the Hammett Award for Conservation; and worked on the Kodiak Brown Bear Trust from 2005 to 2009.

**Chris Wood**; President & CEO of Trout Unlimited  
Arlington, VA

Before joining Trout Unlimited in September 2001, Chris Wood served as the senior policy and communications advisor to the Chief of the US Forest Service for five years. Chris began his career as a temporary employee with Forest Service Research in Idaho and also worked for the Bureau of Land Management, and American Rivers, a river conservation group. He is the author and co-author of two books including, "Watershed Restoration: Principles and Practices," (AFS 1997) and "From Conquest to Conservation: Our Public Land Legacy." (Island Press, 1997)

**Rick Halford**: Former Alaska State Senate President  
Dillingham, AK

Former State Senate President Rick Halford is a well-respected political leader in Alaska. A popular Republican, he served for nearly 25 years in the Alaska State Legislature, with multiple terms as both Senate President and Senate Majority leader. He retired as Senate President in 2003. He served as an RNC committeeman for Alaska and earned a Defender of Freedom award from the NRA. The Alaska Miners Association was among his most consistent supporters. With about 10,000 flight hours as a commercial pilot and big game hunting guide, Halford has a 44-year view of Alaska's incredible renewable and nonrenewable resources. He's an avid outdoorsman, and now spends his time working to protect Bristol Bay.

**Bud Hodson**: Owner of Tikchik Narrows Lodge  
Anchorage, AK

Hodson has been in the Alaska sportfishing business for over 32 years. He owns and operates one of the finest lodges in the state and has been instrumental in building the strong, successful sport fishing economy in Bristol Bay. Bud is well respected in the business community, and an avid sportsman and pilot. He was appointed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, serving five years, with four as Chairman. He currently is chairman of the Nushagak-Mulchatna Wood-Tikchik Land Trust, a southwest Alaska group working with anglers, tribes, state and federal governments, and others for the long-term conservation of Bristol Bay's rivers.

**Joe Klutsch**: Owner of Katmai Guide Service  
King Salmon, AK

Joe Klutsch has lived in Alaska since 1972. He has worked as a fishing, hunting and wildlife education guide since 1975 with a home in King Salmon near the headwaters of the Bristol Bay watershed. Joe guides clients in Katmai National Park, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, Becharof, Alaska Peninsula, and Kodiak National Wildlife Refuges. He has been actively involved in fish and game management, serving 32 consecutive years as an elected member of a Bristol Bay fish and game advisory committee. He has also served as President of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association for twelve years and been actively involved in legislative and regulatory process at the state and national level. Joe is committed to long-term conservation of wildlife and habitat for future generations and protecting unique wild ecosystems of Alaska.

**Brian Kraft:** owner of Alaska Sportsman Lodges  
Anchorage/Igiugig, AK

Brian Kraft is a pilot and owner of three high-end Alaska sport fishing lodges, two of which are in Bristol Bay. "Krafty," as he is fondly called, is a well-respected Alaskan business owner, and an avid hunter and fisherman. Brian has lived in Alaska for 25 years, originally working on the North Slope and playing hockey for the Alaska Aces. Brian started a small outfitting business, "Kraft Adventures," in 1992, then transitioned to lodge management in 1994 and now runs some of the most successful lodges in the state. A pro-development businessman, Brian was initially supportive of the Pebble mine. But after asking a few questions, he didn't like what he was hearing and became deeply concerned that the mine would harm the clean water and fisheries. Brian has been involved in protecting Bristol Bay's fisheries for over 5 years and lives with his wife and four kids in Anchorage.

**Nanci Morris-Lyon:** owner, Katmai Fishing Adventures  
King Salmon, AK

Nanci is a successful business owner and avid outdoorswoman. She has been fly fishing and sport guiding in the Bristol Bay area since 1986. Nanci founded and owns Katmai Fishing Adventures; is managing partner of Alaska Sportsman's Bear Trail Lodge; has served on the G. Loomis professional fishing team; is the lead instructor at the Bristol Bay Fly Fishing and Guide Academy; and has been featured in major national fishing magazines and television shows. She's also a pilot and holds numerous saltwater fly-fishing world records. When Nanci isn't running her lodge, coaching the local swim team or refereeing high school basketball, she is working within her community to protect Bristol Bay's fisheries for future generations.

**Gaspar Perricone:** Co-founder and Co-director, Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance  
Denver, CO

A lifelong hunter and angler, Gaspar Perricone is a native of Steamboat Springs, Colo. Perricone's roots in farming, ranching, and outfitting led him to develop a strong respect for conservation and the protection of our outdoor heritage. In 2007 Perricone founded Outdoor Heritage Consulting, a group dedicated to advancing sportsmen's interests throughout Colorado. Prior to co-founding the Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance, he served as the Western Slope Director for U.S. Senator Mark Udall. Perricone is currently a Wildlife Commissioner of the Colorado Division of Wildlife; the Conservation Chair of Denver Chapter of Trout Unlimited; as well as a member of Colorado Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Colorado Wildlife Federation, Colorado Bowhunters Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the NRA.

**Brad Petzke:** Owner of Rivers North Guide Service  
Marquette, MI

Brad Petzke is a U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Master Captain and owner of Rivers North Guide Service, the primary outfitter for trout, steelhead, Pacific Salmon and Atlantic Salmon in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In 2011, Brad was appointed by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder to serve on the state's Blue Ribbon Panel on State Parks and Outdoor Recreation to explore innovative models to help state parks and recreation areas better serve Michiganders. As an active leader of the Michigan River Guides Association and as the monthly fly fishing columnist for Michigan's largest sportsmen publication – Michigan Outdoors Magazine ("Rivers North") – Brad has a strong presence in Michigan's sport fishing community. In 2010, he represented the Michigan River Guides Association in Washington, D.C. to lobby members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation on issues affecting Great Lakes anglers. U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow later invited Brad to be the Senator's guest for the visit of President Obama to Brad's hometown of Marquette in early 2011. In 2012, Brad partnered with Alaska Fly Anglers to bring the Alaska fishing experience to Michigan anglers.

**K.C. Walsh:** President of Simms Fishing Products  
Bozeman, MT

K.C. Walsh is a lifelong angler, and has been the President of Simms Fishing Products since 1993. Simms is a leading supplier of outerwear, footwear and sporting apparel for anglers of all types. Simms is based in Bozeman, Mont., and distributes its products in 38 countries worldwide. K.C. currently serves on the board of the American Sportfishing Association; and previously served on the Executive Committee of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation; and as the Chairman of the American Fly Fishing Trade Association. He is a past VP of the National Board of Trustees of Trout Unlimited. He is a member of World President's Organization ("WPO"), and a member of the Board of Trustees of The Cate School in California.

**Dan Vermillion:** Co-Owner of Sweetwater Travel  
Livingston, MT

After spending years guiding some of the world's most exotic and famed fisheries, Dan formed Sweetwater Travel in 1995 with his brothers, Jeff and Pat Vermillion. Sweetwater Travel owns and operates fishing camps in Mongolia, Brazil, Alaska, British Columbia, and Montana. Dan's guiding career began at the Golden Horn Lodge in Bristol Bay, Alaska in 1986. Dan, his brothers and a group of investors purchased the Copper River Lodge and the Royal Coachman Lodge. In 2006, Dan was appointed to Montana's Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission; in 2011, he was appointed to a second term by Governor Brian Schweitzer. Now serving as the Vice Chairman, Dan is the Commissioner for southwestern Montana dealing with endangered species management, fisheries management, and wildlife management. In 2009, Dan was honored to guide President Obama on a fly-fishing excursion during his family's vacation in Montana.

**Kirk Otey:** President of Stewart Title of the Carolinas  
Charlotte, NC

Kirk is the President of Stewart Title of the Carolinas and Managing Principal of The DealBox. Kirk is a past Vice Chair of Trout Unlimited's Board of Trustees, and formerly chaired TU's grassroots-driven National Leadership Council. He also represents TU's interests as a Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

**Toner Mitchell:** Manager of The Reel Life fly shop; member, New Mexico State Council, Trout Unlimited  
Santa Fe, NM

Toner Mitchell has made fly fishing in Alaska a regular habit since 1985. He guided in the Iliamna area in 1993 and 1994 and has fished the Nushagak and Kvichak Rivers several times since beginning his work at The Reel Life fly shop work in 2003. The shop has booked about \$100,000 in travel to the Bristol Bay area since then, and provides additional travel referrals to the area. Toner has been the president of the Truchas Chapter of Trout Unlimited for three years, also serving on the NM State TU Council. In a previous life, Toner spent time in Butte, Mont., where he studied the impact of the 1860s copper boom on soils, groundwater and surface water. At the time it was the biggest Superfund site in the nation.

**Dave Bobzien:** Assemblyman, Nevada Legislature  
Reno, NV

A Trout Unlimited life member, David Bobzien serves as an Assemblyman in the Nevada Legislature. David Bobzien has a bachelor's degree in Government and Politics from George Mason University and a Master of Public Administration, with an emphasis in public lands and natural resources policy, from Boise State University. Following a career at the University of Nevada Reno as the campus webmaster, and four years working for local web design firms and running his own web marketing firm, David recently went to work for a non-profit conservation organization. He lives in Reno with his wife and twin sons.

**Jim Geary:** Ohio Trout Unlimited National Council Representative  
Cleveland, OH

Jim is a fly-fishing guide for Laurel Highlands Guide Service and Chagrin River Outfitters. He is the founding member and President of the Western Reserve Chapter of TU. This year he is serving on the Ohio TU Council as the National Leadership Council Representative.

**Judith O'Keefe:** Owner of Stream to Sea Travel  
Powell Butte, OR

An internationally recognized fishing photographer, Judith owns Stream to Sea Travel, which provides trips to Bristol Bay and around the world. She serves on the board of the Deschutes Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Additionally, Judith is a current board member of International Women's Fly Fishing; a volunteer for Casting for Recovery; works with Project Healing Waters; was recently honored by the American Museum of Fly Fishing by participating in its latest exhibit, "A GRACEFUL RISE, Women in Fly Fishing;" and is a regular guest blogger for Filson Life.

**Brian Wagner:** Vice President, Pennsylvania State Council – Trout Unlimited  
Nazareth, PA

A member of Trout Unlimited since 1996, Brian serves as Vice President for the Pennsylvania State Council and Secretary for the Forks of the Delaware Chapter. An avid fly fisherman in Pennsylvania and beyond, Brian is dedicated to advocate for trout and salmon and the special places, like Bristol Bay, where they flourish.

**Dr. Richard Allen:** Life Sponsor and Past President of Dallas Safari Club  
Kerrville, TX

Dr. Richard Allen is a Life Sponsor and past president of the Dallas Safari Club, as well as a former Trustee for the Dallas Ecological Foundation. Dr. Allen has visited Southwest Alaska on numerous trips, including several remote river floats.

**Steve Laurent:** General Manager of Bristol Bay Lodge  
Ellensburg, WA

Steve is the General Manager and pilot for Bristol Bay Lodge. He has worked at Bristol Bay Lodge for the last 22 summer seasons. During the off season, he lives in Washington state with his wife and three children.

**Mike Kuhr:** President of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Milwaukee, WI

Mike is a dedicated angler and long-time advocate for river and stream conservation. He is president of the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, representing over 700 members. He has spearheaded the local Project Healing Waters chapter, which works to provide high-quality fishing trips for veterans in need of healing.